



S&H Form: (01/03)

**REPLY/AMENDMENT
FEE TRANSMITTAL**

Attorney Docket No.	1734.1003CD (Formerly 1083.1009CD)
Application Number	09/480,694
Filing Date	January 11, 2000
First Named Inventor	Takayuki Sugiura, et al.
Group Art Unit	2624

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

110.00

Examiner Name

Douglas Q. Tran

FEE CALCULATION (fees effective 01/01/03)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid For	Number Extra	Rate	Calculations
TOTAL CLAIMS	8	- 20 =	0	X \$ 18.00 =	\$ 0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	2	- 3 =	0	X \$ 84.00 =	0.00
Since an Official Action set an <u>original</u> due date of <u>July 1, 2003</u> , petition is hereby made for an extension to cover the date this reply is filed for which the requisite fee is enclosed (1 month (\$110); 2 months (\$410); 3 months (\$930); 4 months (\$1,450); 5 months (\$1,970)):					110.00
If Notice of Appeal is enclosed, add (\$320.00)					0.00
If Statutory Disclaimer under Rule 20(d) is enclosed, add fee (\$110.00)					0.00
Information Disclosure Statement (Rule 1.17(p)) (\$180.00)					
Total of above Calculations =					\$ 110.00
Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (37 CFR 1.9, 1.27 & 1.28)					
TOTAL FEES DUE =					\$ 110.00

(1) If entry (1) is less than entry (2), entry (3) is "0".

(2) If entry (2) is less than 20, change entry (2) to "20".

(4) If entry (4) is less than entry (5), entry (6) is "0".

(5) If entry (5) is less than 3, change entry (5) to "3".

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METHOD OF PAYMENT

Technology Center 2600

- ☒ Check enclosed as payment.
- ☐ Charge "TOTAL FEES DUE" to the Deposit Account No. below.
- ☐ No payment is enclosed and no charges to the Deposit Account are authorized at this time (unless specifically required to obtain a filing date).

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| Deposit Account No. | 19-3935 |
| Deposit Account Name | STAAS & HALSEY LLP |
- ☒ The Commissioner is also authorized to credit any overpayments or charge any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 (filing fees) or 37 CFR 1.17 (processing fees) during the prosecution of this application, including any related application(s) claiming benefit hereof pursuant to 35 USC § 120 (e.g., continuations/divisionals/CIPs under 37 CFR 1.53(b) and/or continuations/divisionals/CPAs under 37 CFR 1.53(d)) to maintain pendency hereof or of any such related application.

SUBMITTED BY: STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Typed Name John C. Garvey

Reg. No. 28,607

Signature

Date

7-25-03

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Docket No.: 1734.1003CD
(Formerly 1083.1009CD)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Takayuki Sugiura, et al.

Serial No. 09/480,694

Group Art Unit: 2624

Confirmation No. 4627

Filed: January 11, 2000

Examiner: Douglas Q. Tran

For: PRINTING APPARATUS AND PRINTING CONTROL METHOD AND CHARACTER
FONT PATTERN CONTROL METHOD IN PRINTING APPRARATUS

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2003, and having a period for response set to expire on July 1, 2003. A Petition for a one-month extension of time, together with the requisite fee for same, is submitted herewith, thereby extending the period for response to August 1, 2003. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

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The Rejection

In item 4 on pages 2-10 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 6-9 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,435,544 to Mandel in combination with U.S. Patent 5,977,954 to Arimoto et al.

The Prior Art

U.S. Patent 5,435,544 to Mandel

The Mandel patent is directed to an electronic printer and multibin mailbox system for an electronically networked system of plural users of an electronic printer. In this system, the individual user's print jobs are automatically variably directed into particular electronically assigned print job storage bins of the multibin mailbox system (see Abstract).

The features relied on by the Examiner in making the rejection are best illustrated by Figure 18 which shows a mailbox unit in which print jobs are separated into mailboxes. A variable display indicates the bins into which the particular user's jobs have been placed last and not yet removed (column 16, lines 53-65). Figure 18 also illustrates several hoppers for input paper to be used in the printing jobs.

In columns 19 and 20 of Mandel, there is description of prior art systems including systems wherein a plurality of work stations interact with a print service to have documents printed. In particular, remote work stations, PC terminals and facsimiles are connected for shared use of an electronic printer via a print server and/or a shared user interface formatting printing service. On page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner attorney acknowledges that Mandel "does not teach a step of assigning a sheet input (or a paper feed inlet) by the printing apparatus for each operating relationship." However, the Examiner takes the position is taught by the Arimoto patent.

U.S. Patent 5,977,954 to Arimoto et al.

The Arimoto et al. patent is directed to an image processing system which comprises a printer and a reader which are mechanically and functionally separated so that they can be used independently of each other. The Examiner, on page 4 of the Office Action, takes the position that Figures 1A and 1B "teaches a step of assigning a paper feed inlet at the printing

apparatus... for each operating relationship."

The Present Claimed Invention Patentably Distinguishes Over The Prior Art

While it is true that the Arimoto et al. patent discloses paper feed cassettes 915, it is submitted that Arimoto et al. does not operate in a way which is similar to the present claimed invention. The Examiner points out column 6, lines 44-49 which describe whether an upper or lower cassette stage is selected in order to optimize the copy which is obtained. This is similar to standard copier equipment which recognizes the size of paper and selects the appropriate paper tray based on the appropriate size.

The Examiner has cited Arimoto et al. as teaching "assigning a paper feed inlet... for each operating relationship." It is submitted that the Examiner's analysis is incorrect. The claimed operating relationships in the present claimed invention are established independently with respective devices.

Referring to claim 6, it is submitted that none of the prior art teaches or suggests:

"establishing relevant operating relationships independently with the respective devices; and assigning a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each operating relationship."

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6 and include all of the features of that claim, plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 7-9 also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Referring to claim 21, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest:

"establishing operating relationships independently with the respective devices; and

assigning a feed inlet and a discharge outlet for each operating relationship."

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 21, patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 22-24 depend from claim 21 and include all of the features of that claim, plus

additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that these claims also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

In addition, it is submitted that the Examiner's line of reasoning for combining the features of Arimoto et al. and Mandel is defective. On pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action the Examiner states:

"The suggestion for modifying the printer of Mandel can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Arimoto because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for controlling the paper feed inlets by assigning one of the paper feed inlets for the desired paper of each print job sent from each user."

In order to make out a prime facie case of obviousness, the Examiner must provide a line of reasoning as to why the teachings of the prior art would have been combined. However, this line of reasoning must come from the prior art and not from the applicant's specification. It is submitted that the Examiner has supplied a line of reasoning which is not from the prior art but was created by the Examiner in order to produce a reasons why a modification of Mandel would produce a better printer. Therefore, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection is improper.

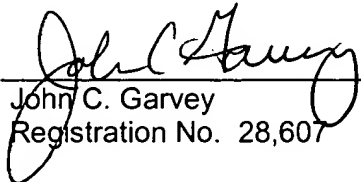
Summary

It is submitted that none of the references, either taken alone or in combination teach the present claimed invention. Thus, claims 6-9 and 21-24 are deemed to be a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 7-25-03

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 434-1500